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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,651	06/26/2003	Douglas L. Heydt JR.	CHI-18	4667
22827	7590	11/17/2004	EXAMINER	
DORITY & MANNING, P.A. POST OFFICE BOX 1449 GREENVILLE, SC 29602-1449			WORRELL JR, LARRY D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3765	

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/606,651

Applicant(s)

HEYDT, DOUGLAS L.

Examiner

Danny Worrell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 12, 13, 18 and 20-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8-11 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 13, 18, and 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mista (6151929).

Mista (6151929) teaches the closing element assembly as claimed including a plurality of closing elements (18), each closing element having a butt end (21) and a working end (5), said butt end defining at least one indentation (see figure 7) along the length of same; at least one plate (6) for receipt of said at least one indentation, said plate defining closing element channels (24) therein for receipt of a portion of said butt ends of said plurality of closing elements, and said at least one plate securing said plurality of closing elements in proper position for cooperating with a plurality of hooking elements of compound needles for knitting.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mista (6151929) in view of Mista (5966969).

Mista (6151929) teaches the invention substantially as claimed as indicated above in the rejection to claim 1. Mista (6151929) does not teach an adhesive applied to the butt end of the closing elements and plate. Mista (5966969) sets forth that adhesive is typically used for securing knitting instruments. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in art to provide the closing element assembly of Mista (6151929) with an adhesive as shown by Mista (5966969) in order to provide an additional more secure holding means for the closing elements.

Claims 12, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mista (6151929) in view of Mista (5966969).

Mista (6151929) teaches the invention substantially as claimed as indicated above in the rejection to claim 1. Mista (6151929) does not teach aluminum as the material for the plate. Mista (5966969) teaches aluminum as a material for forming knitting elements. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to one of ordinary skill in art to provide the plates of Mista (6151929) as aluminum in order to have a lightweight and strong closing assembly.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 8-11 and 19 objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

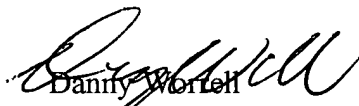
Claims 14-17 are allowed.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Danny Worrell whose telephone number is 703/308-0889. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on 703/305-1025. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


Danny Worrell
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3765

11/12/04